

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending and claims 1-20 stand rejected. By virtue of this response, no claims have been amended or cancelled, and new claim 21 has been added. The new claim is fully supported by the application as filed and no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-21 are currently under consideration.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants' remarks are presented in the same order in which they were raised in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yaron Mayer (U.S. Publication no. 2004/0122810).

Applicants respectively traverse the rejection and submit that Mayer does not disclose or suggest a method or system including the features of providing “an Internet search of a second IM user,” and “searching the Internet for web pages matching the search query to generate search results,” as recited by claim 1 (and similarly by claim 11). Additionally, Mayer fails to disclose or suggest “sorting the search results” based on a user profile of the second IM user as recited by claim 1 (and similarly by claim 11).

In contrast to claims 1 and 11, Mayer discloses a method and system to search for an IM user within a database of users (rather than an Internet search of an IM user, e.g., a search based on a second IM user). In particular, Mayer discloses that the “search is done either on the dynamic database as explained above or in a static database of users that filled the compatibility questionnaire.” (Emphasis added)(¶ [0016]; see also, ¶'s [0033] and [0034] in which the dynamic and static databases are described including data from user questionnaires). Thus, Mayer discloses searching a database of user questionnaires to locate second IM users (i.e., wherein the results are user profiles, e.g., as shown in the “contactee list” of Fig. 8). Such disclosure fails to disclose or suggest searching the Internet for web pages based on a search query associated with the second IM

user; in particular, Mayer fails to disclose or suggest launching a search of a second IM user and searching the Internet for web pages matching the search query associated with the second IM user.

Moreover, Mayer does not disclose or suggest “sorting the search results” based on the user profile of the second IM user as recited by claim 1 (and similarly claim 11). In contrast to the features of claims 1 and 11, Mayer discloses sorting the search results based on the user making the request (e.g., based on the first IM user and not the second IM user as recited) as described at least in ¶’s [0063] and [0064].

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the rejection to claims 1 and 11 (and claims depending therefrom) should be withdrawn.

New Claims

New claim 21 has been added and is believed allowable over the references of record. In particular, the features of “receiving a request from a first IM user for an Internet search of a second IM user,” and “causing a search of the Internet based on information associated with the second IM user,” are not believed disclosed or suggested by the references of record. Accordingly, Applicants request allowance of claim 21.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **324212008700**. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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